Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-05

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INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, ECON, ENRG, OECD, UK

SUBJECT: ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE'S TEMPORARY WORKING PARTY (TWP): PROPOSED MEETING OF STATISTICAL EXPERTS ON "TERMS OF TRADE" BETWEEN OECD AND OPEC COUNTRIES

REF: STATE 297841

1. U.S. POSITION RELATING TO EXPERTS MEETING ON DEVELOP-MENT OF PRICE INDICES OF GOODS EXPORTED TO OPEC COUNTRIES, AS OUTLINED IN PARAS 5-10 OF REFTEL, DISCUSSED WITH MARY HEDLEY-MILLER, UNDER SECRETARY, H.M. TREASURY, AND U.K. DELEGATE TO TUP. MS HEDLEY-MILLER STATED THAT THE UK WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN FULL SYMPATHY WITH THE U.S. EFFORT AND DESIRE TO DEVEL-

OP SUCH APPROPRIATE MEASURES. THE U.K. IS READY TO DO THEIR PART. HOWEVER, SHE DID EXPRESS SOME SKEPTICISM ABOUT THE APPPOPRIATENESS OF SUCH A HIGHLY DETAILED STUDY EVEN WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CIEC COMMISSION. SHE FEARED THAT THE SEARCH FOR A "TRUE" INTELLECTUALLY AND TECHNICALLY PPECISE MEASURE WOULD BE OVERRIDEN BY POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS. SHE FEARED THAT THE U.S. WAS OVERLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE ABILITY TO OBTAIN THE HIGH DEGREE OF TECHNICALLY SMPHISTICATED WORK AS OUTLINED IN THE POSITION

2. THIS MUCH SAID, THE UK WILL LEND ITS SUPPORT AND WILL SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO THE MEETING WHO WILL FIT THE REQUIREMENTS AS OUTLINED IN REFTEL. MS HEDLEY-MILLER WILL COORDINATE WITHIN HM GOVERNMENT AS TO THE MOST APPROPRIATE PERSON OR PERSONS TO REPRESENT THE UK. THIS WILL MOST LIKE LY BE SOMEONE FROM HMT'S STATISTICAL/BALANCE OF PAYMENTS GROUP. SHE DID NOT FEEL THAT MR. NIEFIELD, UK DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, WAS THE APPROPRIATE PERSON TO BE DEALING WITH SINCE H.M. TREASURY WOULD HAVE THE LEAD ON SUCH A STUDY.

RICHARDSON

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: EFIN, ECON, ENRG, UK, US, OECD, OPEC To: STATE

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